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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES OCCUPY FOUR SMALL OFFSHORE ISLANDS

Four, and possibly five, small islands located about 40 miles southwest of the Nationalist-held Tachen Islands were attacked and occupied by Chinese Communist forces from Wenchou in Chekiang Province between 29 and 30 May, [redacted] 25X 5X1 [redacted] Only one of these islands was garrisoned by the Nationalists. The attacks followed a spate of reports received during the week indicating current enemy efforts to rehabilitate the airfield at Ningpo, increase naval and air strength in the area, and to prepare in other ways for a possible invasion of the Tachen Islands.

These operations may be related to a current Tachen Island invasion plan, but it is more probable that the smaller islands are being occupied in order to deny their use to Nationalist troops for mainland operations and intelligence collection. In August, a similar occupation of four islands near Nationalist-held Matsu was undertaken without a subsequent attack on Matsu.

Chinese Communist forces have the capability of capturing the Tachens, Matsu, or Chinmen Island with little warning, although a Chinmen operation would involve large numbers of troops. An attack on any of the major offshore islands does not necessarily indicate an imminent attack against Formosa.

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